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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The Commissioner has been requested to submit, in consultation with the Collector of Madras, details for drawing up a programme of slum improvement."

SRI A. RATNAM :—" Will the Government constitute a committee to implement this Act in order to benefit the slum-dwellers? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I do not think a committee is necessary."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" When did the Government decide to improve the slums? When did they ask the Commissioner of the Corporation to submit a report? Why should there be such inordinate delay in the preparation of plans? After all, it does not require more than 15 days to know where slums exist, what programmes have got to be chalked out and how they have to be implemented.

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" We shall ask the Commissioner to expedite the submission of the proposals."

10-40 a.m. SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI :—" Sir, in asking the Commissioner to prepare the scheme, have the Government indicated to the Commissioner the amount of money that is likely to be given by the Government for slum improvement so that any scheme so framed may be done in stages at least? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The improvement schemes may be taken up in instalments according to the amount of money available."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" The Hon. Minister said that the Commissioner of the Corporation has been asked to draw up the scheme. May I know, Sir, why Government themselves should not do it? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I have already said the Commissioner can do it in consultation with the Collector and the Director of Harijan Welfare."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Sir, in view of the frequency of such questions arising on the floor of this House, may I know why the Hon. the Minister for Health should not be banished to stay in the slum or asked to stay there for some time until there is an end of these questions on the floor of this House? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I invite the hon. Member to do that first, Sir." (Laughter)

Extension of B.C.G. vaccination to all districts.

* 497 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have any proposal to extend the B.C.G. vaccination to mufassal places; and if so, to which district; and

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(*b*) the expenditure incurred in the City of Madras in connexion with the B.C.G. Vaccination Scheme in 1953–54?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir. It will be extended to all districts.

" (*b*) The expenditure incurred is Rs. 29,591–5–0."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have received another request from the Hon. Minister for Revenue that his questions may be taken up next. I hope the House gives permission to take up his questions. Now we will take up question 505."

Private irrigation works in Malabar.

* 505 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many private irrigation works there are in Malabar now, constructed with the permission of the Government and without such permission; and

(*b*) the extent of land irrigated by such sources and the water-rate collected by the owners?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (*a*) & (*b*) Although there are many private irrigation works in Malabar district, those shown in the Statement appended to this answer, are the more important ones. The information required in respect of those works are furnished in the statement [a]. It cannot be said definitely without detailed verification and scrutiny whether they were constructed with the permission of the Government or not."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, the meagre statement furnished by the Hon. Minister itself shows that the proprietors are collecting 20 paras of paddy per acre which even when worked at a low rate comes to about Rs. 50 per acre. Now in view of the exorbitant collection of water rates and the importance of this problem—the land owners refuse to give water to lands when water is required—will the Government be pleased to undertake legislation as was contemplated before to regulate private irrigation sources or take them under Government control? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Sir, I do not agree with the statement of the hon. Member characterising the statement as meagre. The statement covers two pages. If this is considered meagre, I cannot understand what he means by ' meagre '. As regards his suggestion, Sir, I must examine what it is first."

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[a] **Printed as Appendix VI on pages 720–721 infra.**